

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/03440

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ G11B5/851, 5/66, 5/738

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ G11B5/62-5/858

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1922-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2003
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2003	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2003

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2002-25032 A (Sony Corp.), 25 January, 2002 (25.01.02), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not

considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing

date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is

cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other

special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other

means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later

than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or

priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to

understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be

considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive

step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be

considered to involve an inventive step when the document is

combined with one or more other such documents, such

combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
02 July, 2003 (02.07.03)Date of mailing of the international search report
15 July, 2003 (15.07.03)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The technical feature of claim 1 is to allow a nonmagnetic metal spacer layer to physically adsorb oxygen and/or nitrogen. The technical feature of claim 10 is to specify the shift magnetic field Hex of a ferromagnetic metal layer. The invention of claim 1 and the inventions of claims 10, 11, 13, 14 lack the unity of invention. Claim 2, claims 3-5, claims 6, 7, claim 8, and claim 9 refer to claim 1. The invention of claim 1 is not novel and does not involve any inventive step, and therefore the technical feature of claim 1 is not a special technical feature. Therefore, the invention of claim 1, the invention of claim 2, the invention of claim 3, the invention of claim 6, (continued to extra sheet)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No.II of continuation of first sheet(1)

the invention of claim 8, and the invention of claim 9 lack the unity of invention. The invention of claim 12 relates to a product produced by the production method defined in claim 8.

Therefore, the number of inventions of the present application is seven: the invention of claim 1, the invention of claim 2, the invention of claims 3-5, the invention of claims 6, 7, the invention of claims 8, 12, the invention of claim 9, and invention of claims 10, 11, 13, 14.